New Beginnings at the Solstice

On the morning of the 3rd Monday in the lunar calendar. The people of Nueva Girona. Awoke far earlier than is precedented in the rest of the year to begin their week of festivals in celebration of the annual Solstice of Moon's Rising. Alejandra De Cantas was especially excited this year having been recently promoted to the second cardinal of the priests of the Moon. Meaning that this year she would be able to perform the ritual in tandem with the Tenn'in. The Tenn'in were those who lived on the moon and each year they would arrive down on the solstice- it being one of the only times each year where earth was close enough to the moons celestial orbit for them to ride their chariots down on the moonbeam roads before they were pulled apart by the movement of the moon and it's gravity when compared to the Motherhome. This was a problem as in the previous century many of the Tenn'in's sorcerers were killed in the Lunar sides war. The people of Iberica had allied with the Tenn'in after they had attempted appeasement of the Kyamos empire. Although after this failed and the Tenn'in were forcibly invaded the Iberica legion, gathered together to send military and humanitarian aid to the light side of the Lunar surface (LSLS.) This led to Alejandra's mother and uncle being sent to the front lines. Her mother never returned. And when her uncle did, he was never the same having had his arm severed from his body in a sudden surprise attack from Kyamos troops. Severing his arm with their plant-based magic. Whilst he was resting in his bunker. Despite this she was glad that he was alive.

Alejandra got up and began to get dressed into the garb of the second Cardinal. A thin white dress with a weighty gold necklace representing the Major Sun the Moon and the Minor Sun and, in the centre, taking pride of place was the Motherhome. In each section was carved the symbol of the body and a vague inscription of the body's physical features. Motherhome's was an upside-down tick leading into a sideways right-angle triangle with the adjacent side continuing again passed the original tick and out to the other side.

Alejandra, being the second cardinal was unable to eat before the ceremony had begun as to not sully her connection with the spiritual magic that was in her blood. Heightened by the closeness of the moon's gravity to Motherhome. As Alejandra walked around her house built into the side of a cliff melding with the natural world constructed of wood, silk, wool, and thatch. She could feel the soothing touch of the wooden floor on the ground gripping to her bare feet. Moving towards the bathroom she splashed water on her face waking herself up. Looking out upon the open

balcony she saw the moon closer than ever making what seemed like an optical illusion a psychedelic skyscape with the moon covering the intersection of the two suns blackening out all the closest stars the Grand mono and La Vaca Grande. Half submerged in the absence of space. A cold and desolate space. Alejandra hoped that there would be no issues with the Tenn'in's crossing. Usually there were no problems because the Tenn'in's mages where skilled enough to be able to divert any oncoming danger out of the way. But Since the Kyamos invasion their strength was dwindling. As many of their greatest sorcerers were decimated on the front lines tasked with protecting their entire battalion from attack by the Kyamos. This meant that they were now at risk of meteor showers or other celestial disturbances that would cause for the Lunar bridge to be damaged.

Alejandra walked around her kitchen to the fridge retrieving a jug of water she had placed there the night before. Cooling her in the humid climate of Nueva Girona, as well as allowing her to swallow her general medication for her allergies as well as vitamin pill. Following this Alejandra, stood in front of the mirror, adjusting her hair long and blonde streaked with brown. She combed it back arranging it around her face pulling strands over her shoulders and pushing the rest down her back. Lastly, she arranged a tiara on her crown. Bejewelled, silver and embedded with Litrian rubies centre place in the tiara was the ruby of the solstice marked with the symbol of the Motherhome.

Alejandra now ready slipped on a final robe to protect from the harsh winds at the cliff's edge where the Tenn'in were set to arrive and the solstice to come into place. An hour and a half from now at 5:30am. Therefore, especially since it was the day of the solstice the warmth of the suns had not set in again requiring the robe to be draped over herself. Knitted elaborately to depict the local fauna, deer with golden antlers, the giant sea serpents off the coast and the Oni people from the East performed their ritual dance next to the pride of place the sacred beast of Iberica the Jade dragon said to be moulded from the gods barely seen by man residing over the prosperity of the land and winding up and down her back as if it was puppetting every other magic being in the land.

Checking her pocket watch which read 4:15am she slipped on her leather sandals at the door gripped the cast bronze handle turned it and walked out into the Iberican dusk.

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